Harrogate
July 30th 1869

My dear Mr Garrison

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I feel very much ashamed that I have never had courage to acknowledge the receipt of your most kind and truly sympathetic letters. I have made many attempts to do so but invariably broke down before I had written many lines. the vivid remembrance of those bright and happy July days two years ago during which we were favoured with the great pleasure and high privilege of your company, the meeting in the Assembly Hall - that glorious gathering in the Free Trade Hall in Manchester, together with a thousand things of blessed memory, which so distinctly mark the last ever memorable month of 1867. the last happy month passed in blessed companionship of my most precious and heavenly souled Husband, all ~~thus~~ flashes upon me in a moment and completely overpowers me. When you know this dear Mr Garrison I feel sure that sure that you will pardon my long silence and not impute it to forgetfulness or ingratitude And I would ask you kindly to overlook any inaccuracies as it is yet a great difficulty to control my thoughts so as to put them on paper coherently. Yet considering all things I am wonderfully well and have much cause for deep thankfulness. In that frightful shock of Earthquake & Storm and tempest we must have been utterly overwhelmed had not God been our refuge. He alone could help, and in those black dark & terrible hours His almighty arm sustained us — — —

And now although the brightness, the sun light has passed from us and left the happy home deeply shadowed. yet we do not walk in darkness; a pure & beautiful light reflected from the past shines on the present ~~Affection~~ and the glorious hope of eternal reunion illumines the future.

We feel that even now, and here our beloved one is not lost to us. I firmly believe that he is still intimately nigh sometimes I almost fancy I can hear his loved voice — — — but I must not suffer myself to wander on thus. —

Thank you very much for your sweet thoughts on the spiritual nearness of our dear departed ones: they were most comforting. Will you please also thank dear Mrs Villard for the book kindly sent to dear Lydia Jane by Mr Webb. Many of the thoughts in "Gates Ajar" have been very consolatory. I feel deeply grateful for it. The book reached Ashfield whilst Lydia was from home and at a time when I was feeling especially depressed it seemed to come in just at the right moment. Our dear Lydia has felt greatly troubled that that she has not been able to write to Mrs Villard but she has been in such a state of weakness and suffering during the last twelve months that writing has been almost impossible. She sends much love and will write as soon as she possibly can. She spent the winter in London and we hoped much from the treatment of an eminent Physician there. I am now staying at Harrogate with her. She is I think somewhat better but still very weak. I am thankful to say that the Physicians all encourage us in the hope that in time she will be well; but her case is one in which we cannot expect rapid improvement and if we may hope for her ultimate recovery we are willing to wait, though it may be long, in patience for this happy result.

thank you very much for your kind remembrance of my dear brother, his trials have been great for after the death of his most lovely wife he lost his little twin sons of 10 months old. but he has been wonderfully sustained under his many sorrows. I am happy to say that all the rest of our family are well at present, and we feel we have great cause for thankfulness. My dear Girls are all at home now, and so thoughtful, and unselfish. my dear brothers are also so kind, and good, relieving me of care, and anxiety, in every way possible.

I hope that dear Mrs Garrison is better than when you last wrote, please to give my love to her, for although I have never seen her I feel towards her as a dear old friend. Please also to give my love to Mr Frank, I hope he is well, I should be so glad to hear from him at any time. Our very especial love to dear Mrs Villard, I was so happy to hear of the birth of her little daughter, it is very late to offer congratulations but I know that though late she will not feel it the less sincere.

You will I dare say have heard of Young Barker's success in obtaining a good Scholarship, he is a fine young man, and promises to take a good position in his profession.

I am delighted to learn that our dear friend Dr Lees is having such a pleasant visit to your country and having such a hearty reception wherever he goes - he came to Ashfield a week or two before he left England I was grieved to see him looking so ill and sincerely trust that he may return much improved in health. He has kindly sent me newspapers regularly with the reports of the various meetings. The Dr told me that he hoped that you might return to England with him. What a pleasure it would be dear Mr Garrison if we might hope for the happiness of seeing you once more with us! need I say that should any member of your dear family visit England. we shall esteem it a high privilege, if they will make our house their home. We are still at Ashfield, you will be glad to hear this, as you will understand that every foot of ground, is holy ground to us, consecrated as it is, by a thousand things of most precious memory. Still in writing my friend I feel how for them, there is comparatively little attraction, and how painfully those friends who have had the happiness of being greeted by that wonderful & heavenly smile must feel, that Ashfield is no longer the same; still dear friend we will do all in our power to contribute to the comfort and happiness of any of your dear family who may kindly visit us.

We have had our kind friends Professor McChesney and Mrs McChesney staying a few days; Professor McChesney has resigned the Consulship here; they are at present visiting the Art Galleries in London after which they will return to America; I think they purpose settling in Chicago.

I had a kind letter from Henry C Wright which I have not yet answered - if you see him, will you give my love, and thanks to him.

I often see Mr James Clephan, if he was near me now he would send love, as would also many other friends whom you met in Newcastle.

We leave this place next week, returning to Ashfield. If you have time to write me a few lines at your leisure I shall feel very grateful.

Lydia joins me in kind love.

Ever dear Mrs Garrison

Yours Affectionately E Mawson